



# **2008 Annual Report**

**Rochester Fire Department  
201 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904-3726  
507.328.2800**

**[www.rochestermn.gov/departments/fire](http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/fire)**

## Message From the Chief



On behalf of the men and women of the Rochester Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present the 2008 Annual Report. This is my first annual report with Rochester Fire, having been honored to have been selected as Chief in May of 2008.

These accomplishments and activities you will read about in this brief synopsis could not have been achieved without the talent, energy and dedication of all our personnel. This report contains the culmination and highlights of the year's activities and accomplishments.

The Rochester Fire Department is a full service fire department providing services ranging from fire prevention and suppression, to emergency medical services, to technical rescue and hazardous materials mitigation. Operating from 5 strategically located stations, the Rochester Fire Department provides the highest quality of service to both residents and visitors.

We responded to nearly 8000 calls last year, easily making Rochester Fire the not only the busiest fire department in southeastern MN but one of the busiest in the state. The coming year promises to be a busy year with many challenges facing us in a challenging economic time for the city. As always, it has been our pleasure to be of service to the community, our citizens, and our guests...24 hours a day and seven days a week.

G. K. Martin  
Fire Chief



4868 NE 10 ST - Feb 27, 2008



Water Rescue Training



Arby's Fire Nov. 28, 2008

## RFD By The Numbers

### Coverage Information

<b>Land Area</b>	130.1
City	53.8
Rural	76.24
<b>Population</b>	113,034
City	100,848
Rural	12,189

<b>Budget</b>	\$13,040,114
Per Capita	\$115.36

### Staffing

Sworn Personnel	104
Civilian Personnel	4
Firefighters /1000 Pop.	1.08

### Fire Operations

Total Calls (+2.3%)	7,719
EMS Calls (+15%)	5,096
Fire Calls (-18%)	232
Rescue Calls (+3%)	187
Hazmat Calls (-46%)	129
Public Assist Calls (-14%)	1,397
False Alarm Calls (-13%)	678

### Facilities & Equipment

#### Fire Stations

- 1 - 521 South Broadway
- 2 - 702 W. Silver Lake Drive NE
- 3 - 2755 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW
- 4 - 1875 41<sup>st</sup> Street NW
- 5 - 305 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE
- Administration - 201 4 St. SE, Rm 10

#### Vehicles

Vehicles	Location
5 Engines	Sta. 1- 5
1 Spare Engine	Sta. 1
2 Aerial Trucks	Sta. 1& 4
2 Tankers	Sta. 1& 4
2 Light Rescue	Sta. 1& 4
2 Grass Truck	Sta. 1& 4
1 Hazmat Vehicle	Sta. 4
1 Collapse Rescue	Sta. 5
1 PS Command	Sta. 5
1 Boat	Sta. 1
2 Utility Vehicles	Sta. 1 & 4
1 Chief's Car	Sta. 1

## 2008 Staffing Changes

### Promotions

#### Captain

Chris Ford	Greg Neumann
Rod Steggerda	Eric Propotnik

#### Motor Operator

Ryan Ostreng	Mike House
Dale Stockinger	Dan Mulholland
Earl Robinson	

### New Hires

Greg Martin, Fire Chief	
Eric Fix	Caleb Fine
Holly Mulholland	Michael Rybarczyk

### Retirees

Peter Slavin	October 10, 2008
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## Video Conferencing

In early March Rochester Fire completed installation of a video conferencing system at each of the five fire stations and City Hall Fire Admin offices. This system will allow real time communication between stations for training and department meetings. A mobile unit is being added in 2009 for use in conjunction with the Incident Command Vehicle for use major at incidents.

The addition of Video Conferencing gives the advantage of conducting real time training that can be recorded for later viewing by other shifts, eliminating multiple classes, saving both training time and money. Additionally it will tend to keep fire crews within their response areas for more efficient deployment of resources.



Firefighters participate in training via the Video Conferencing System

## Welcome Fire Chief Greg Martin

Monday, April, 28, 2008, Fire Chief Greg Martin began as Rochester Fire Chief. Chief Martin comes to Rochester from Sioux City, Iowa, where he was Fire Chief for two years and prior to that he was the Fire Chief of Lansing Michigan. Chief Martin has had a busy 2008 moving his family to Rochester as well as tackle budget cuts, policy updates and general overseeing department operations.

He looks forward to settling into the Rochester community with his family

## New Fire Station 5

Fire Station No. 5, pictured on the front page, opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> just a block off of South Broadway on 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE. Currently it is staffed by a crew of 4 firefighters per shift and houses Engine 5, the Rescue 52 (Structural Rescue) and the Public Safety Command Vehicle (EM50).

## New Equipment

A light rescue and two new fire engines were ordered in 2008 for delivery in 2009. A Pierce Contender Series light rescue was purchased to replace the 2000 Pierce Rescue 4 and is expected to be placed in service in April of 2009. In December two Pierce Impel engines were ordered to replace two front line engines, which will go into reserve status. The vehicles are purchased with funds set aside for vehicle replacement over the life of the vehicles being retired. Significant savings were realized by purchasing two identical engines with minimal custom features and placing the order prior to January 1. The engines are expected to be placed into service in the fall of 2009.

## AFG Grant – New SCBA

Rochester Fire Received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security (FEMA) in the amount of \$232,800 for the purchase of new breathing apparatus (SCBA). The grant has a 20% (\$46,560) match required to be paid by the City of Rochester with the Federal Government providing the balance. The Fire Department is indeed fortunate to receive the grant at a time when the city is forced to trim the 2009 budget due to the current economic downturn.

## Strobe Detectors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

As part of the 2007 AFG Fire Prevention Grant, Rochester Fire Department was able to obtain funding to purchase 200 strobe smoke detectors that were installed in the homes of over 175 deaf and hard of hearing Rochester area residents. Deputy Chief Felsch worked with Danella Bohland of the MN Department of Human Services; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Division to contact coordinate the distribution and installation of these devices.

The strobe devices were installed in bedrooms for deaf residents to "hear" their smoke detectors during the night when hearing aids are removed and multiple strobes were installed in the homes of the totally deaf residents to alert them 24/7.

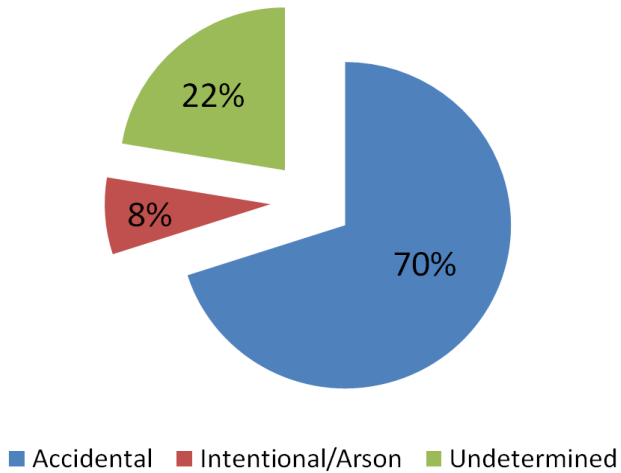


### In Memoriam

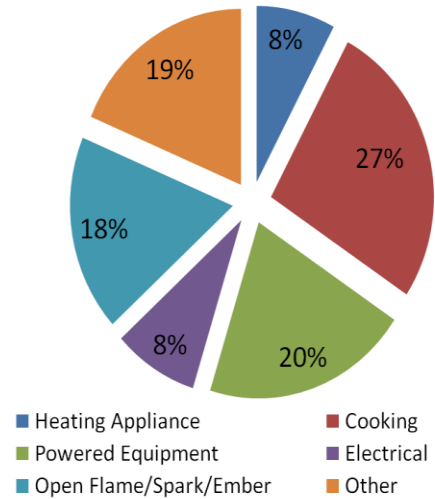
**We are Deeply Saddened By the Loss of Joseph M. Farrell** - 12/8/66 - 2/22/08  
Joe lost his courageous battle with cancer on 2/22/08. He leaves behind his wife Terri and their three sons Landon, Michael, and Jack, his parents Pat and Peg Farrell - and his brothers and sisters at the Rochester Fire Department. Joe was hired as a firefighter on 3/3/97.

***WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU JOE***

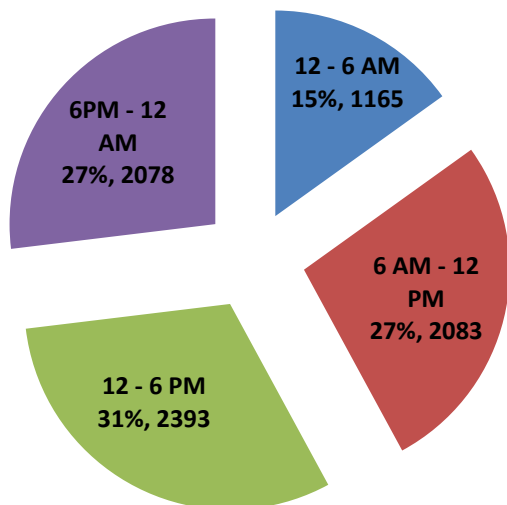
### 2008 Fire Cause



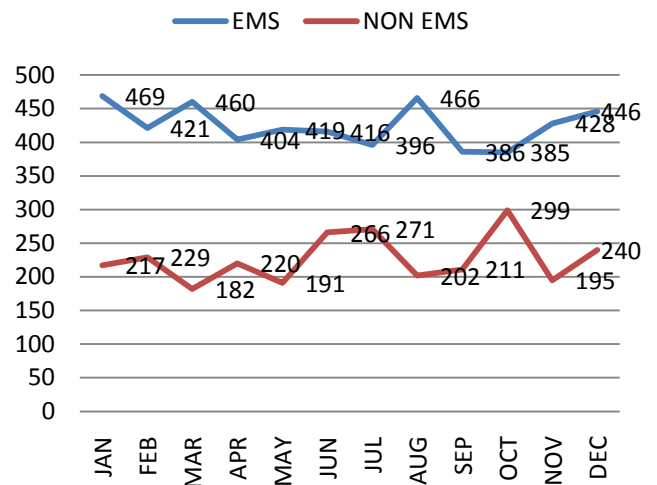
### 2008 Accidental Fire Causes



### 2008 Runs by Time of Day



### 2008 Runs by Month



### FIRE LOSS HISTORY In Thousands

